

A Guide to Christian Speak: Abbreviations: *fun.* (fundamentalist understanding), *CE.* (conservative evangelical understanding), *GC* (general christian), *Lib.* (liberal christian understanding)

A is for Altar Call.

An invitation to come to the front to be saved, usually delivered after an evangelistic sermon in which the person has preached about the evils of churches that have 'altars' (*fun.*)

A is also for Ananias. Parish Treasurer who looks after the church's money as if it was their own.

B is for Baptism.

An ongoing experience (literally) for charismatics; A ticket promising membership rewards (*fun.*); A magical right for anyone (*GC*);

C is for Crusade.

Big Top gathering with lots of American preaching (*fun.*); Nostalgia night with Billy Graham (*CE*); Attack on fundamentalists (*lib.*)

D is for the Devil.

A liberal modernist Christian (*fun.*); a fundamentalist (*lib.*)

E is for Evangelical.

A Christian who is ashamed of being a fundamentalist (*fun.*); A Christian who opposes the ordination of women (*CE*); A Christian who supports the ordination of women (*lib. evangelical*); Someone who is an evangelist (*confused secular media*)

F is for Fanzine.

A type of Religious magazine published by some fundamentalist churches and tele-evangelist organisations (*lib.*)

G is for Glossolalia. A word to start you speaking in tongues if you can't already.

H is for Holy Laughter.

An activity associated with Desmond Tutu on Fast Forward (*GC*); Sounds produced by severely misguided individuals ie., people who are under the influence of the devil (*CE*); A form of laughter experienced after imbibing several spirits (*lib.*)

I is for Immersion. The only time a male Christian is allowed to wear a dress (*fun.*);

J is for Journey.

What the liberal Christians are on (*fun.*); Time taken to get to church on Sunday (*GC*); What we are on (*lib.*)

K is for King.

Term conjuring images of authority and power (*fun.*); One of the greatest singers of the gospel, as well as rock and roll (*GC*); Term no longer used widely (*lib.*)

L is for 'long term', as in 'long-term' project or study.

The perennial project in the church. It is always ongoing and going nowhere. The cut-off date for submissions is the Lord's return.

L is also for Liberal Christian meaning those people who do not vote for the coalition parties in Australia.

M is for Miracle.

An historical occurrence, though only possible in the time of Christ (*CE*); When money is not discussed at Parish Council meetings (*GC*); When social justice is taken more seriously in the church than evangelism (*lib.*)

N is for Nemesis.

Liberal Christians (*fun.*); Non-conservative evangelicals (CE); Fundamentalists, especially those who stand for the US Presidency (*lib.*)

O is for ordination:

Practical commissioning for authority and leadership by men (*fun.*); a meaningless concept which belittles the 'priesthood of all believers, note becomes a critical concept when it is implied that women may be ordained, then seen as status only for men (CE); the process of conferring of a priestly status without an ontological change (*lib.*)

P is for Post-modern Christian.

The devil (*fun.*); What? (GC); Not too sure about the modern? (*lib.*)

Q is for Question.

A rhetorical device (*fun.*); A never ending discussion (*lib.*)

R is for Revelation.

A book meant to be taken as literally as possible (*fun.*); Something of which there is no more (CE); Finding out that Jesus wasn't on the side of the poor (*lib.*)

R is also for Redeemer. Term used to substitute for 'the son' as in Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier (*lib.*)

S is for short-term. (ie., projects and studies in the church which are 'short-term').

Where submissions are not necessary. The outcome has already been decided and consideration of any extra material only complicates matters. In any case, the deadline for submissions was about the time of the crucifixion.

S is also for Sharing. What women are sometimes allowed to do in church, ie., instead of preaching from the pulpit they share from the pulpit (CE); Expression used by Christians who are reluctant to appear like they are telling other Christians what to do (GC).

T is for Temperance.

A contemporary cause (*fun.*); A term from the past (CE); A term from my past (*lib.*)

U is for 'Unity in Diversity'.

A slogan that Christians use to convince themselves that we actually have unity in diversity.

V is for Virgin Birth.

An actual event (*fun.*); A song by Madonna (coll.); Add ? - Title of annual lecture (*lib.*)

W is for World.

An evil place to be avoided (*fun.*); Our home (GC); A holier place than the church (*lib.*)

X is for Xenophobe.

Pagans and Post-modern Christians (*fun.*); fundamentalist Christian (*lib.*)

Y is for Yesterday - as in Hebrews 13:8.

One of the greatest songs ever recorded (*lib.*)

Z is for Zadok.

Ask David Millikan what this means.

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